

World Arms Transfers

(NIT's VI-4 and, to a lesser extent, II-5)

Description

- The level, composition, and terms of Communist, Western, and OPEC transfers of arms to the Third World, with breakdowns by weapon systems, support (vehicles, communication gear, follow-on spare parts, and ordnance), and associated services (training, technical assistance, and construction of military facilities).
- Trends in commitments and actual deliveries.
- Economic significance of alternative pricing methods for arms and debts associated with arms transfers.

Role of OER

As embodied in the analysts and files of the military section of the Trade and Aid Branch, OER, over the last 20 years has built up expertise in this area (especially for Communist-LDC arms transfers). The Branch has been publishing a series of annual and quarterly reports on the economic aspects of these subjects. It has a unique role in the (relative) completeness and timeliness of its coverage and its ability to respond rapidly to ad hoc requests. It works closely with OSR on questions of weapons specifications and pricing and with DIA on arms transfers to LDCs. A closer working relationship with OSR is being undertaken to assure consistency of data on transfers and stocks and a formal coordination procedure with DIA is being sought for Western arms transfers.

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